

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-11 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 INT-05

JUSE-00 NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 SAL-01 /160 W

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R 111535Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2768

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOALSE IZMIR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

6 ATAF

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IMZIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1939

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PLOS TU GR

SUBJ: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE; PUBLIC DISCUSSION

REF: ANKARA 1454 DTG 241410Z FEB 76

THE AEGEAN DISPUTE IS DRAWING INCREASING ATTENTION IN TURKISH
PRESS AND IN STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL FIGURES. RECENT PUBLIC
TREATMENT OF THE DISPUTE INCLUDES:

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A) A FURTHER CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AEGEAN

POLICY BY OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT (REFTEL), WHO SAID MARCH 7 THAT "THE REQUISITE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OUR RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN WERE NEGLECTED, DESPITE ALL OUR WARNINGS" AND THE "BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AEGEAN BEGAN TO CHANGE AGAINST TURKEY IN THE TIME THUS LOST."

B) MIN OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES KILIC, IN A STATEMENT APPEARING IN MARCH 11 HURRIYET, STATED THAT THE SEISMIC SHIP HORA WOULD BE LAUNCHED "AROUND MAY 15" AND "IMMEDIATELY" WOULD BEGIN SEISMIC AND GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH IN THE AEGEAN. HOWEVER, HURRIYET REPORTED THAT THE HORA, PRESENTLY BEING REFITTED IN THE ISTINYE SHIPYARDS, COULD NOT PRESENTLY ENGAGE IN EVEN TRAWLING FOR BLUEFISH.

C) HURRIYET MARCH 10 - 11 PUBLISHED PROMINENT ARTICLES WARNING AGAINST GREEK EXPANSIONIST IDEAS IN THE AEGEAN AND LINKING THE THREAT WITH THE UPCOMING LAW OF THE SEA (LOS) CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. THE ARTICLES, USING DATA PREPARED BY BUT NOT ATTRIBUTED TO THE MFA, STATE THAT IF TERRITORIAL WATERS ARE INCREASED TO 12 MILES, GREEK TERRITORIAL AREA WILL INCREASE 35 PERCENT TO 63.9 PERCENT OF THE AEGEAN COMPARED TO AN INCREASE IN TURKISH TERRITORIAL SEA FROM THE PRESENT 8.8 PERCENT TO TEN PERCENT OF THE AEGEAN. FURTHER, THE POTENTIAL AREA FOR TURKISH EXPLORATION WOULD BE HALVED FROM 28,000 TO 14,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS. THE MARCH 11 ARTICLE CAUTIONED THAT AT THE LOS CONFERENCE, TERRITORIAL WATERS WOULD BE INCREASED TO 12 MILES, ISLANDS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS HAVING CONTINENTAL SHELVES AND ANTIQUITIES ON THE SEABEDS WOULD BELONG TO THE GREEKS.

D) HURRIYET MARCH 11 COMPLEMENTED ITS SENSATIONAL "NEWS" REPORTS WITH AN EDITORIAL CLAIMING GREECE HAS RENEWED ITS EFFORTS TO "PROVOKE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION" AGAINST TURKEY AT THE LOS CONFERENCE SO THAT A 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT WILL BE APPROVED. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "NO ONE CAN EXPECT TURKEY TO GIVE TO GREECE THE PROLONGATION OF BIG ANATOLIA FOR THE SAKE OF SMALL, LENTIL-SIZED ISLANDS."

E) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE SCHEDULED MARCH 10 NAVAL AND AIR UNCLASSIFIED

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EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN WERE POSTPONED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS, BUT TURKISH-FRENCH JOINT NAVAL EXERCISES WERE TO BEGIN ON SCHEDULE MARCH 11.
MACOMBER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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04 MAY 2006

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